RESOLUTION NO. 2015-29

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS,

WHEREAS, Proposals have been made for the construction of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facilities at the Port of Brownsville and along the Brownsville Ship Channel, by Annova LNG, Rio Grande LNG and Texas LNG; and

WHEREAS, Various facilities under consideration are located in close proximity to the City of South Padre Island; and

WHEREAS, Many of the proposed facilities are located along State Highway 48, which is the principal route between Port Isabel and Brownsville; and

WHEREAS, South Padre Island and the other communities of the Laguna Madre area are located in one of the most unique, pristine and scenic ecosystems in the world; and

WHEREAS, The proposed project area is located in a delicate and partially undisturbed salt flat between the Laguna Madre and the Bahia Grande, which together form part of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge; and

WHEREAS, The Laguna Madre has been designated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife department as one of the "most important and unspoiled ecosystems in Texas; and

WHEREAS, The Bahia Grande is a recovering ecosystem that was the subject of one of the largest estuary restoration projects in the United States, and serves as a critical habitat for nesting birds and aquatic life; and

WHEREAS, The status of the Laguna Madre and the Bahia Grande as hyper-saline lagoons makes them particularly vulnerable to pollution or contamination, due to their naturally low level of sea and fresh water exchange; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the risk of potential contamination by pollutants or sediment, the potential construction of these facilities presents a risk of visual pollution, by replacing natural vistas with industrial facilities; and

WHEREAS, Light and noise generated by the LNG facilities have the potential to impact sensitive ecosystems, and to impair the public's enjoyment of recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, Traffic and security restrictions along State Highway 48 and the Brownsville Ship Channel related to the operation of LNG facilities have the potential to limit public access to recreational facilities near the proposed facilities, including the Laguna Atascosa Wildlife Refuge and the Jaime Zapata County Park; and

WHEREAS, Owing to the present design of State Highway 48, which lacks turning lanes or turn-arounds, heavy traffic associated with the LNG facilities has the potential to negatively impact quality of life and public safety; and

WHEREAS, The close proximity of some proposed LNG facilities to State Highway 48 and the City of South Padre Island creates potential safety issues for citizens of South Padre Island in the event that the proposed facilities are impacted by natural or technological hazards; and

WHEREAS, The economy of South Padre Island and the Laguna Madre Area is heavily-dependent on tourism and fishing industries, which rely upon the natural resources within the area; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the environmental, economic, quality of life and safety concerns connected with the proposed construction of LNG facilities, the proposal also raises questions of environmental justice, given that the proposed facilities are to be located in close proximity to a community comprised of ethnic minorities and persons of low to moderate income; and

WHEREAS, The City Council of the City of South Padre Island wishes to oppose the construction of any LNG facility in the vicinity of the City of South Padre Island, Port Isabel and surrounding areas.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of South Padre Island hereby expresses its opposition to the construction of LNG facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby directs that a copy of this resolution be entered into the proceedings of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission related to these applications.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED on this the 2nd day of September, 2015

CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS

Alex Avalos, Mayor Pro-tem

ATTEST:

Susan M. Hill, City Secretary